

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:RDVINE:VE

APPROVED BY EUR: AAHARTMAN

NSC: DCLIFT

ISA: HLOBDELL

C: HSONNENFELDT

S/S - MR. LUERS

----- 033750

R 252149Z FEB 74 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 037376

EXDIS TOSEC 27

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, FR

SUBJECT: FRELOC CLAIM

REF: PARIS 1977 AND 2540

1. MESSAGES THIS SUBJECT SHOULD HENCEFORTH BE REPORTED IN EXDIS CHANNEL RATHER THAN NODIS.
2. IN DISCUSSION YOUR SUGGESTIONS REFTEL WITH AMBASSADOR IRWIN, WE CONCLUDED THAT A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM EITHER PRESIDENT TO POMPIDOU OR FROM THE SECRETARY TO JOBERT WOULD BE PREMATURE.
3. AS WE SEE IT, THERE IS CONSIDERABLY LESS PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT OF FRENCH PRINCIPALS (SEE STATE 247022) IN RESOLUTION OF CLAIM ISSUE THAN WHEN FRENCH INITIATED THEIR OCTOBER 1972 PROPOSAL. MOMENTUM ON THE ISSUE SEEMS TO HAVE STALLED AS INTERMINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE INTERPRET
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JOBERT'S COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARY (PARIS 32482) AS AN INDICATION THAT ALTHOUGH FRENCH STILL WISH TO SEE THIS MATTER SETTLED, THEY ARE IN NO HURRY TO DO SO.

4. WE PREFER TO AWAIT A SPECIFIC FRENCH RESPONSE TO OUR COUNTERPROPOSAL. WE RECOGNIZE, AS DOES THE EMBASSY, THAT SOME TIME HAS ELAPSED SINCE SCHRICKE INDICATED ON JANUARY 3

THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR US QUOTE BEFORE TOO LONG UNQUOTE. NEVERTHELESS, UNTIL WE HAVE A FRENCH COUNTERPROPOSAL, OUR BARGAINING POSITION CAN BE WEAKENED BY IMPATIENT MANEUVERING.

5. WE WILL CONSIDER WHAT NEXT STEPS TO TAKE IN THE LIGHT OF A FRENCH COUNTERPROPOSAL. UNTIL SUCH A COUNTERPROPOSAL IS RECEIVED, WE BELIEVE NO ACTION ON THE EMBASSY'S PART IS CALLED FOR EXCEPT AN OCCASIONAL LOW-KEY REMINDER THAT WE ARE AWAITING AND EXPECT A MEANINGFUL RESPONSE FROM THE FRENCH. CASEY

SECRET

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